



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Frederick County Health Department

Public Health Alert

Date: February 16, 2023

Avoid Contact with Foxes and Report Exposures

On February 15, 2023, the Frederick County Animal Control received a report of a child bitten by a fox while outside playing in the Hillcrest Neighborhood. Frederick County Animal Control has noted they received two additional calls for foxes in the Hillcrest neighborhood earlier in the day, one call was for a fox under a car that appeared healthy and the second call was regarding a fox being seen out during the day. Although the fox has not been captured or tested for rabies, unprovoked attacks can be one of the signs of a rabid animal, and the Frederick County Health Department wants the public to be aware of this situation.

Who to call if you have physical exposure to a wild animal:

- Contact Frederick County Animal Control: 301-600-1544
- Notify Frederick County Health Department: 301-600-3342
- Consult your health care provider

What you can do to stay safe:

- Observe wildlife, including foxes, from a distance
- Alert Animal Control if you see a fox that is acting strangely or appears sick
- Notify Animal Control immediately if you have physical exposure to a wild animal so that the animal can be captured and tested for rabies
- Seek medical attention for any scratches or bites from unknown animals
- Make sure children and teens understand not to approach or touch wildlife and if they do get bitten or scratched to report it to an adult at home or at school.

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Maryland
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH





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What you should know about rabies:

- Rabies is a viral disease that mainly infects mammals
- Rabies is transmitted through the saliva of an infected animal, through a bite or scratch
- Rabies symptoms in animals include unusually friendly or aggressive behavior, excessive salivation, limping, and/or other atypical behaviors such as nocturnal animals emerging during the daytime
- Rabies is nearly always fatal in humans once symptoms develop
- Rabies can be prevented in humans with appropriate post-exposure treatment

Visit health.frederickcountymd.gov/RABIES for more information.

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